

National Defence Academy of Latvia
Center for Security and Strategic Research

Russia's Grand Strategy Accordingly to the 2014 Military Doctrine

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Presupposition

- Russia's approach towards the West changed from strategic cooperation to strategic competition.
- The doctrine reflects:
 - The way Russia believes warfare is conducted nowadays, specially by the West
 - The theoretical developments of Russian Military Thought
 - Other strategic challenges for Russia's security



Research Questions

- What is possible to learn about Russia's grand strategy from the 2014 Military doctrine?
 - What are Russia's ultimate strategic objectives?
 - Which means (military and non-military) Russia might employ for achieving its objectives?



Grand Strategy

- «Grand strategy» integrates **military, political, and economic means** to pursue states' ultimate objectives in the international system (Kennedy, 1991; Hart, 1954)



Grand Strategy

- «Grand strategy» is a response to a series of basic questions: What are our interests? What threatens those interests? What end state do we seek against that threat, and how quickly must we attain it? And **how do we interrelate military and non-military means** to achieve that end state? (Biddle, 2005)

Russia's long-term national interests

- The development of **democracy and civil society.**
- To enhance the **competitiveness of the national economy.**

Russia's long-term national interests

- To ensure the inviolability of the **constitutional order, territorial integrity and sovereignty** of the Russian Federation.
- To turn Russia into **a world power**, which seeks to maintain strategic stability and mutually beneficial partnership relations in **a multipolar world**.

NAA 1992



National defence principles

- **Prevention of global and regional conflicts.**
- **Strategic deterrence** – a complex system of interrelated **political, diplomatic, military, economic, informational** and other measures aimed at forestalling or reducing the threat of destructive action on the part of the state - aggressor (coalition of states).
 - It is achieved by economic capabilities of the state, including resources for the forces ensuring national security, military-patriotic education of citizens, as well as military infrastructure and management of the military organization of the state.

National defence principles

- Rational sufficiency and effectiveness, including **non-military methods and means** such as public diplomacy, peacemaking and international military cooperation.
- **Development and improvement** of the state military organization and defense capabilities, etc.

Why the 2010 Military Doctrine was amended?

- New threats in **Ukraine** and around it, as well as the events in **North Africa, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan**.
- The increasing implementation of the interests of leading nations with **«indirect actions»** by using **the protest potential of the population, radical and extremist organizations, private military companies**.

Why the 2010 Military Doctrine was amended?

- Increase of **offensive NATO potential on the borders of Russia**, and deployment of global missile system.
- Some legal acts and changes in the organizational structure of Russian Armed Forces came into force after the approval of the previous doctrine.

(Security Council of the Russian Federation, 2014, December 20).

Main tasks of the defence, 2015

1. Defence plan for 2016-2020.
2. The development of the **strategic nuclear forces**, which are a crucial factor in maintaining global equilibrium and virtually eliminate the possibility of large-scale aggression against Russia.
3. The creation of **Aerospace forces**.

Main tasks of the defence, 2015

1. Strengthening the defense of strategically important regions: **the Arctic and other areas.**
2. To continue **sudden combat readiness inspection** to maintain high and constant readiness of the Armed forces.

Main tasks of the defence, 2015

3. To strengthen **cooperation with allies and partners** in the CSTO.
4. Social problems and issues of military, development of military infrastructure.

V.Putin, 2014, December 19.

<http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/47257>

What's new? (I)

- **Major external and internal military dangers.**
 - Foreign private military companies;
 - Increasing threat of terrorism;
 - Activities of persons and organizations directed against sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of the state;
 - The trend of shifting of military dangers and threats in information space and inner sphere of a country

(RIA Novosti, 2015, February 5), etc.

What's new? (I)

- The concept of non-nuclear deterrence.
- The concept of mobilization readiness.



What's new? (II)

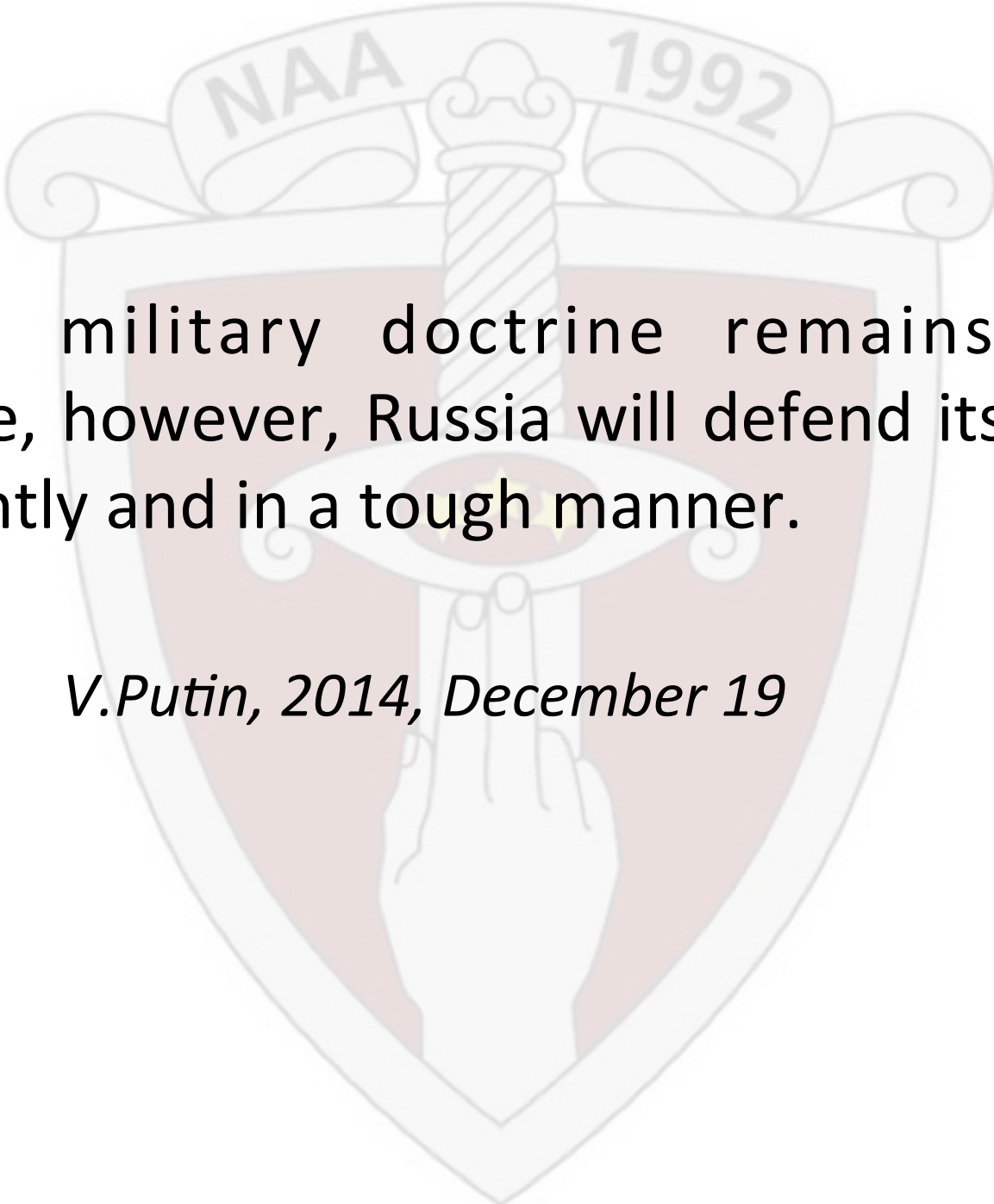
- The need to improve the effectiveness of military-patriotic education of citizens.
- Providing aerospace defence.
- Ensuring Russia's national interests in the Arctic.

What's new? (III)

- Creation, development and modernization of military infrastructure objects.
- Improving the quality and competitiveness of military products, the creation of a system for managing the total life cycle of weapons, military and special equipment.

What's new? (IV)

- Expanding cooperation with the BRICS countries, the development of relations with the republics of Abkhazia and South Osetia.
- The need to maintain an equal dialogue with the EU and NATO.
- The need for a new security model in the Asia-Pacific region.



Russia's military doctrine remains purely defensive, however, Russia will defend its security consistently and in a tough manner.

V.Putin, 2014, December 19

Conclusions

Russia's grand strategy:

- Multipolar World
- West is only another actor in the global system
- Russia will pursue its own interests, irrespective of the West
- Russia is pursuing other strategic partners (i.e. BRICS)
- Global dominance is not the ultimate objective
- Spheres of influence



Conclusions

Russia's strategic objectives:

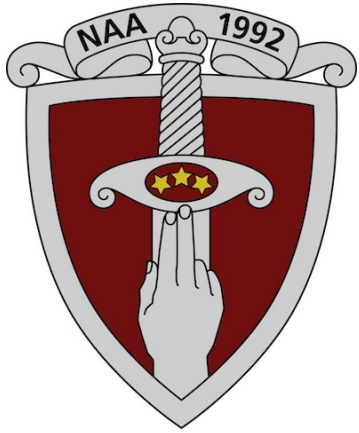
- Reduce Western influence in the regions it has strategic interests
- To secure its interests in the Arctic
- To fight radical islam terrorism
- To rebuild its military potential and to use it as instrument of influence (asymmetric strategy)
- Protect Russia's economic interests



Conclusions

The means (military and non-military) Russia might employ for achieving its objectives:

- The Armed Forces have a greater coordination role, including controlling civilian agencies if necessary
- Political, economic, diplomatic, information, and other means, as part of a comprehensive strategy
- Russian New Generation Warfare
- International organizations as instrument for legitimization



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